

EMT Frequently Asked Questions

Table of Contents

General Information	Page 2
Other Local EMS Agencies	Page 2
General EMT Certification	Pages 3-4
Training	
National Registry	
Live Scan	
EMS CE	
Skills Verification	
EMT Applicant Information	Page 4
Application Process	
Type of Application	
Initial Certification in California	Page 5
Never certified	
Lapse greater than two years	
Recertification Fees	Page 5
Recertification: Live Scan	Page 5
Recertification Requirements	Pages 6-7
Current or lapse of less than six (6) months	
Lapse six (6) months or more and less than 12 months	
Lapse 12 months or more and less than two (2) years	
Lapse greater than two (2) years	
Application Submission	Page 8
Lost/Stolen Card	Page 8
Change of Information	Page 8
Name	
Contact Information	
Employer	
Eligibility to Function/Work in Los Angeles County	Page 8

Additional Questions contact: emtinfo@dhs.lacounty.gov

General Information

What are our business hours?

The EMS Agency is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 7:30 am to 5:00 pm. We are closed every Friday and all County holidays.

Where are we located?

Our address is 10100 Pioneer Boulevard, Suite 200, Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670. Driving directions can be found by clicking [here](#).

Is parking available?

Free parking is available in the parking lot located around the building.

Is this the County Health Department?

The LA County EMS Agency is a division of the Department of Health Services. We are responsible for overseeing the emergency medical services system (fire departments, ambulance companies, hospitals, etc). We are a regulatory agency and do not provide direct patient care. If you are seeking emergency medical services, please call 9-1-1.

Where can I find a current list/map of emergency rooms and trauma hospitals?

All Los Angeles County EMS system maps and directories can be found [here](#).

Frequently Requested Numbers:

For information about Los Angeles County clinics or hospitals, call the Department of Health Services' general information line: 1-800-427-8700.

For information about public health services such as environmental health and disease reporting, call the Department of Public Health at: 213-240-8144 or visit their [website](#).

For information about free or low cost health care services, visit the Department of Public Social Services' [website](#):

For information about other County departments and services, contact the Los Angeles County Public Information Office at: 213-974-1311 or: info@ceo.lacounty.gov

To contact nearby EMS Agencies, use the following links/contacts:

[Kern County](#): 661-868-5200

[Orange County](#): 714-834-3500

[Riverside County](#): 951-358-5029

[San Bernardino County](#) (ICEMA): 909-388-5823

[San Diego](#): 619-285-6429

[Santa Barbara County](#): 805-681-5274

[Ventura County](#): 805-981-5301

FOR INFORMATION NOT LISTED ON THE EMS AGENCY WEBSITE, SEND AN EMAIL TO OUR EMT INFORMATION ACCOUNT AT: emtinfo@dhs.lacounty.gov. You will receive a response within 3 business days. Do not call the EMS Agency in addition to emailing.

EMT Certification

How do I become an EMT?

To become an EMT, you need to complete an [EMT Training Program](#). Second, you need to pass the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians (NREMT) Basic [computer-based exam](#). Third, you need to apply for certification with an EMT certifying entity. You must apply for certification within two years of being issued an EMT course completion record. For Los Angeles County EMT applicants, forms and instructions for certification can be found [here](#).

Does the EMS Agency conduct EMT classes?

No, the EMS Agency does not conduct EMT classes. You will need to attend an approved [EMT Training Program](#).

Will I have to maintain my National Registry Emergency Medical Technician (NREMT) Basic registration?

A current NREMT-Basic card is required for initial certification but not recertification. NREMT certification is not required if you recertify less than one year of California EMT expiration.

How do I take the NREMT test?

Instructions for completing the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians computer-based exam can be found [here](#).

NOTE: ALL FIRST TIME EMT APPLICANTS OR EMTs NOT CERTIFIED WITH LA COUNTY EMS AGENCY GREATER THAN ONE YEAR ARE REQUIRED TO OBTAIN A LIVE SCAN FOR THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY EMS AGENCY TO RECEIVE A DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND FBI CRIMINAL HISTORY REPORT PRIOR TO CLEARANCE FOR EMT CERTIFICATION.

What is a Live Scan?

A Live Scan is an electronic submission of your fingerprints to the Department of Justice. The Live Scan fee is approximately \$80.00. The fee is paid at the time the Live Scan Operator obtains your fingerprints. The fee covers the Live Scan fee and the DOJ and FBI report that is sent directly to the EMS Agency. The Criminal History Report is usually received within 7 days. However, it may take several weeks before the EMS Agency receives the report. The report lists all criminal history on file with the Department of Justice and FBI and is reviewed PRIOR to issuing EMT certification. Do not call the Agency to check the status of your DOJ report for 30 days after performing the live scan. In the interim, submit your application with all required documents and fee.

Can the EMS Agency perform Live Scans? Where do I go for a Live Scan?

No, the EMS Agency cannot perform Live Scans. A complete list of Live Scan Agencies can be found [here](#). Fees may vary. Print out [this form](#) which contains the LA County EMS Agency contact information and bring it with you to the Live Scan Agency.

If I had a Live Scan done for another agency or company, do I have to complete another Live Scan?

Yes, you will need to complete a Live Scan specifically for the Los Angeles County EMS Agency as Department of Justice and FBI information cannot be shared among agencies.

How can I check on the status of my Live Scan report?

You may check on the status of your Live Scan report by calling the California Department of Justice at 916-227-4557. DOJ and FBI reports are sent directly to the EMS Agency from the DOJ by a secure electronic e-mail system. Most reports are received within 3 to 5 working days.

How can I obtain EMS Continuing Education (CE)?

Continuing education must be obtained from an approved EMS CE provider. Examples of CE include: classes, conferences, organized field care audits, online and media-based productions. A list of local EMS CE programs can be found [here](#). Acceptable online EMS CE websites include: www.ce3000.com, www.eminet.com, www.ems-ceu.com, www.healthstream.com, www.healthcareonline.com, www.emcert.com, www.ems-ce.com. However, their content and hours must meet California EMS CE requirements and you may not complete more than 12 hours on any given day. EMS CE must be taken during your current certification to process for renewal.

What is the Skills Competency Verification Exam?

Every two years, you must obtain a Skills Competency Verification Exam. Proof of successful completion must be submitted with your application. If your EMT Certification is lapsed greater than one year, skills shall only be valid within the past year. This can be done through an EMT Refresher Course by an approved EMT training program or from an approved EMS Skills Verification provider. **The EMS Agency does not conduct Skills Competency Verification Exams.** A list of approved Skills Competency Verification Programs can be found [here](#).

What is the Los Angeles County EMT Scope of Practice program requirement?

All EMTs must complete the Los Angeles County EMT Scope of Practice by an approved provider in order to be certified by the EMS Agency or function as an EMT in Los Angeles County. The training requirement covers Los Angeles County only. EMTs who complete an approved EMT Program in Los Angeles County receive this training. All others must complete training through an approved provider. This may be an employer or private program open to the public. A list of private programs open to the public can be found [here](#).

EMT Applicants:

How do I submit my EMT application and required documents?

You may submit your EMT application by U.S. Mail or drop-off in person to the EMS Agency during regular business hours. It is not necessary to send your application by FedEx or UPS. Ensure sure that your application is complete with copies of all documents and a self-addressed, stamped envelope have been included. The EMS Agency will process and mail your certification/recertification within 15 days of receiving a complete application.

*****The EMS Agency no longer issues certification or recertification by walk-in or appointment with same-day service. Mail your complete application or submit in person during normal business hours at least 30 days prior to expiration if recertifying.**

How do I become certified as an EMT in California by Los Angeles County EMS?

You must apply for certification in order for the Agency to notify you of missing or additional information/documentation required to determine eligibility for certification.

Which application do I use to become certified?

The EMS Agency uses two different applications for EMT certification. They are:

1. [EMT Initial Certification Application](#)
 - a. Never been certified as an EMT
 - b. California EMT certification lapse of 24 months or greater
2. [EMT Recertification Application](#)
 - a. Currently certified in California as an EMT
 - b. California EMT certification with a lapse of less than 24 months

*****Fees and documents required will vary due to type of application, certification status, and/or current certifying entity.**

Initial EMT certification: What are the requirements?

No prior California EMT certification or CA EMT lapse of ≥ 24 months

Submit your [LA County EMS Agency EMT Initial Certification](#) Application with the following:

- \$105 fee in cash, cashiers check, money order or personal check.
NOTE: Payment by personal check will result in a 30 day delay for certification.
Cash must be exact amount and submitted in person, do not mail cash.
- If currently employed, name, address, and phone number of current employer. Use form available on the website or attach a signed, separate sheet of paper with the information.
- Self-addressed stamped envelope

Copies of:

- Current NREMT-Basic card (if applicable).
- Letter from NREMT documenting successful completion of NREMT written exam within the past two years
- A course completion record or other documented proof of successful completion of an approved EMT Basic course within the past two years
NOTE: If course completion is greater than one year, Skills Competency Verification exam is required from an approved provider
- Current CPR card equivalent to *BLS for Healthcare Provider* or *Professional Rescuer*. A copy of the front and back sides of the card is required. Heart Association/Red Cross.
NOTE: Online CPR courses are not accepted
- Proof of Los Angeles County EMT Scope of Practice.
- Receipt for Department of Justice and FBI Live Scan for criminal background clearance
- Government Issued Identification with photo (Passport, CA I.D., Drivers License)
- Any other current or expired health care certification/accreditation/license - includes out of state (if applicable). Examples include: EMT, Paramedic, RN, LVN, etc.)

Recertification: What are the Fees?

Recertification fees are dependent on the status of your EMT certification and the Agency which issued the EMT certification.

The Fees are as follows:

- **\$57**
 - Your California EMT Certification is current or is lapsed less than 12 months with Los Angeles County
- **\$105 – Requires a live scan to include DOJ and FBI**
 - Your California EMT Certification is current or is lapsed less than 12 months with any other California certifying entity
 - Your California EMT Certification is lapsed 12 months and less than 24 months

Recertification: When do I need to perform a new live scan?

All California EMTs applying for recertification who are NOT currently certified by Los Angeles County EMS Agency or have lapsed one year or more must perform a new Live Scan for DOJ and FBI using [this form](#) on our web site.

The EMS Agency no longer issues recertification by walk-in or appointment with same-day service. In order to prevent a lapse in certification, submit your application at least 30 days prior to expiration. The EMS Agency will process and mail your certification within 15 days of receiving a complete application.

Recertification: What are the Requirements?

If your California EMT certification has NOT expired:

Submit your [LA County EMS Agency EMT Recertification Application](#) with the following:

- Appropriate fee as listed above in cash, cashiers check, money order, or personal check.
NOTE: Payment by personal check will result in a 30 day delay for certification.
Cash must be exact amount and submitted in person, do not mail cash.
- If currently employed, name, address, and phone number of current employer. Use form available on the website or attach a signed, separate sheet of paper with the information.
- Self-addressed stamped envelope

Copies of:

- Current California EMT certification. ***Lapse in California certification requires completion of additional requirements according to length of lapse.
- Current CPR card equivalent to *BLS for Healthcare Provider* or *Professional Rescuer*. A copy of the front and back sides of the card is required. Heart Association/Red Cross.
NOTE: Online CPR courses are not accepted
- Proof of LA County EMT Scope of Practice (if not on file with LA County EMS)
- Proof of completion of a 24 hour EMT Refresher Course **OR** 24 hours of EMS CE (no more than 12 hours per day)
- Skills Competency Verification form signed by an approved California provider
- Government Identification with photo (Passport, CA I.D., Drivers License).
- Receipt for Department of Justice and FBI [Live Scan](#) for criminal background clearance (A new Live Scan must be completed for all personnel not certified with LA County EMS Agency within the past year)

If your California EMT certification has expired for LESS than six (6) months:

Submit your [LA County EMS Agency EMT Recertification Application](#) with the following:

- Appropriate fee as listed above in cash, cashiers check, money order, or personal check.
NOTE: Payment by personal check will result in a 30 day delay for certification.
- If currently employed, name, address, and phone number of current employer. Use form available on the website or attach a signed, separate sheet of paper with the information.
- Self-addressed stamped envelope

Copies of:

- Most recent California EMT certification
- Current CPR card equivalent to *BLS the Healthcare Provider* or *Professional Rescuer*. A copy of the front and back sides of the card is required. Heart Association/Red Cross.
NOTE: Online courses are not accepted
- Proof of LA County EMT Expanded Scope of Practice (if not on file with LA County EMS Agency)
- Proof of completion of a 24 hour EMT Refresher Course **OR** 24 hours of EMS CE (no more than 12 hours per day) within the past two years
- Skills Competency Verification form signed by an approved California provider
- Government Identification with photo (Passport, CA I.D., Drivers License).
- Receipt for Department of Justice and FBI [Live Scan](#) for criminal background clearance (A new Live Scan must be completed for all renewal applicants who were NOT certified with LA County EMS Agency within the past year)

If your California EMT certification has expired for 6 months or MORE but LESS than 1 year:

Submit your [LA County EMS Agency EMT Recertification Application](#) with the following:

- Appropriate fee as listed above in cash, cashiers check, money order, or personal check.
NOTE: Payment by personal check will result in a 30 day delay for certification.
- If currently employed, name, address, and phone number of current employer. Use form available on the website or attach a signed, separate sheet of paper with the information.
- Self-addressed stamped envelope

Copies of:

- Most recent California EMT certification
- Current CPR card equivalent to *BLS for Healthcare Provider* or *Professional Rescuer*. A copy of the front and back sides of the card is required. Heart Association/Red Cross.
NOTE: Online CPR courses are not accepted
- Proof of LA County EMT Expanded Scope of Practice (if not on file with LA County EMS Agency)
- Proof of completion of a 24 Hour EMT Refresher Course **AND** 12 hours of EMS CE **OR** a total of 36 hours of EMS CE (no more than 12 hours per day)
- Skills Competency Verification form signed by an approved California provider
- Government Identification with photo (Passport, CA I.D., Drivers License)
- Receipt for Department of Justice and FBI [Live Scan](#) for criminal background clearance (A new Live Scan must be completed for all renewal applicants who were NOT certified with LA County EMS Agency within the past year)

If your California EMT certification has expired for one (1) year or MORE but LESS than two (2) years:

Submit your [LA County EMS Agency EMT Recertification Application](#) with the following:

- Appropriate fee as listed above in cash, cashiers check, money order, or personal check.
NOTE: Payment by personal check will result in a 30 day delay for certification.
- If currently employed, name, address, and phone number of current employer. Use form available on the website or attach a signed, separate sheet of paper with the information.
- Self-addressed stamped envelope

Copies of:

- Most recent California EMT certification
- Letter from NREMT documenting successful completion of NREMT written exam.
- Current CPR card equivalent to *BLS for Healthcare Provider* or *Professional Rescuer*. A copy of the front and back sides of the card is required. Heart Association/Red Cross.
NOTE: Online CPR courses are not accepted
- Proof of LA County EMT Expanded Scope of Practice (if not on file with LA County EMS Agency)
- Proof of completion of a 24 hour EMT Refresher Course **AND** 24 hours of EMS CE **OR** a total of 48 hours of EMS CE (no more than 12 hours per day) within the past two years.
- Skills Competency Verification form signed by approved California provider within 1 yr.
- Government Issued Identification with photo (Passport, CA I.D., Drivers License).
- Receipt for Department of Justice and FBI [Live Scan](#) for criminal background clearance (A new Live Scan must be completed for all renewal applicants expired one (1) year or more)

If your California EMT certification has expired two (2) years or more, you must retake an entire EMT-Basic course and meet all NREMT and local requirements.

How do I submit my EMT application?

You may submit your EMT application by U.S. Mail or drop-off in person to the EMS Agency during regular business hours. It is not necessary to send your application by FedEx or UPS. Ensure sure that your application is complete with copies of all documents and a self-addressed, stamped envelope have been included. The EMS Agency is no longer performing certification/recertification by walk-in or appointment with same-day service. Mail your complete application or submit in person during normal business hours at least 30 days prior to expiration. The EMS Agency will process and mail your certification within 15 days of receiving a complete application.

My EMT Certification card was lost/stolen, how do I obtain a duplicate/replacement EMT Certification card?

Submit a memo/note requesting a duplicate/replacement card with a copy of approved government I.D. along with a \$12.00 fee and a self-addressed, stamped envelope by U.S. Mail or drop-off in person to the EMS Agency

All EMTs are required to submit changes in name, address, phone, and employer to the EMS Agency which they are certified within 30 days of change. Click [here](#) for a link to the form required to be completed.

I have a current California EMT Certification, what do I need to work in Los Angeles County?

A California EMT certification is valid throughout the entire State of California. Different Counties have variable requirements to function in their County. To function as an EMT in Los Angeles County you need:

1. A current, valid California EMT certification
2. Los Angeles County EMT Scope of Practice by an approved provider
3. Current CPR card equivalent to *BLS for Healthcare Provider* or *Professional Rescuer* (AHA/Red Cross. Must maintain continuous verification.

All documents must be maintained by you and provided to your employer.

FOR FURTHER QUESTIONS REGARDING EMT CERTIFICATION, email emtinfo@dhs.lacounty.gov or call 562-347-1500 and a staff member will respond within three (3) business days. The Agency is closed every Friday and all County holidays.